examination with reference to factors like level of performance, safety, reliability and maintainability and capacity to carry 40,000 to 80,000 passenger trips per hour per direction, it is not possible to react to the proposal.

The initial reaction of the Ministry of Railways is, however, that the system does not seem to have the potential of being developed into a Mass Raid Transit System to meet the level of traffic projected for Delhi.

Improvement of Railway Stations in the country

2062. SHRI MENTAY PADAMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS *be pleased to state:*

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the condition of Railway stations in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is ary plan to improve Railway stations in the country; and

(c) if so, the stations selected in Andhra Pradesh for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A survey was conducted on all Indian Railways in the year 1987 to identify stations which were deficient in respect of basic passenger amenities. An action plan was formulated to wipe out these deficiencies by end of 1990-91.

(c) 454 stations in Andhra Pradesh were identified for improvement under this scheme.

Study regarding load carried by Indian Labour

2063. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken regarding load carried by an Indian Labour, male and female, as compared to those in other developed as well as developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that an Indian Labour carries as much as 135 kg. load as against the recommended maximum limit of 55 kg.; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) According to an ILO report, entitled "Maximum weights in load lifting and carrying", a comparative study has been made of maximum load that a worker is allowed to lift and carry. Wide variations have been revealed in 61 developed and developing countries. An item *from an issue of* "ILO Information" giving the main findings of the report is attached. (*See* below)

(d) The Model Rules framed under the Factories Act, 1948 already provide that the maximum weight to be lifted or carried by an adult male worker should not exceed 55 Kgs. However, it has not been possible to lay down such limits specially in the unorganised sector because of practical difficulties.

A weighty issue for workers

How much weight can an adult worker carry? A lot depends on the physical condition of the person—and the country where he or she works.

*

As an ILO report notes, there are wide variations among 61 developed and developing countries in the maximum load that a worker is allowed to lift and carry. It bases its findings on a recent survey that looked into the rules and practice on this issue.

Some countries—such as Austria, Canada, Ireland and Sri Lanka—had general provisions concerning health protection. Twelve countries had no regulations at all and a number of others referred to specific occupational tasks. For instance, in India dock workers have a limit of 100 kilograms while in non-organised sectors it can reach 115—135 kilograms. Greek meat

*Maximum weights in load lifting and carrying, ILO Geneva.

workers can carry 100 kilograms, Colombia construction workers 50 kilograms, Finnish packers 40 kilograms and Republic of Korea rice workers 40 kilograms.

In 1967 the ILO recommended a maximum of 55 kilograms to be manually transported by an adult male worker. But this ceiling has yet to become a universal norm.

Existing rules allow men to carry loads ranging from 45 kilograms in the German Democratic Republic to 56 kilograms in Mexico, 80 kilograms in China and 90 kilograms in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

More countries have adopted limitations for women workers than for men and the weight celiing is substantially lower. In Japan it is 30 kilograms for intermittent work and 20 kilograms for continuous work. In the Federal Republic of Germany occasional load carrying by women cannot exceed 15 kilograms and frequent lifting 10 kilograms. Thailand has set a limit of 30 kilograms, the Philippines 25 kilograms, Pakistan 23 kilograms, and Czechoslovakia and the USSR 15 kilograms.

The study notes that in certain countries limits on load lifting and carrying were adopted early in the ceautry and are being replaced by good working practice. These include Belgium, Chile. Cyprus, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the USSR and parts of Australia and the United States.

In the industrialised countries mechanisation has generally replaced manual transport. Also there is a greater understanding of physiological, biomechanical and ergonomic factors. "The causes of back injuries and other health problems associated with physical activity are better known and the value of training and correct kinetic techniques in lifting and carrying have been recognised", the report says.

Recently the concept of maximum load has become more complex. In addition to the weight lifted and carried, other conditions such as the distance, the slope involved, the rate of energy, expenditure, the percentage of time spent on manual transport and the total load of the workshift have to be considered. Furhter more the size of the load, the case of grip, the symmetry of effort and the ambient temperature play a role in the evaluation of the physical effort.

Strict observance of a load ceiling—suitably adjusted to the age, sex and physique of the worker and to the general working environment—can substantially reduce back injuries at the workplace, says George Kliesch, Director of the ILO's Working Conditions and Environment Department. In can also save hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation payments as well as prolonged suffering for the victims.

Cyclone relief fund from U.K.

2064. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Government have provided grants of £ 65,000 (over Rs. 18.5 lakh) for emergency relief work in Andhra Pradesh following the devastating cyclone in the State in May this year;

(b) whether similar cyclone relief funds have also been received from other countries; if so, the total relief fund received from other countries; if so, the total relief fund received from different countries; and

(c) the manner in which the relief funds have been and are being spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.